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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

AND

Superintendent of Schools



TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE

For the Year Ending December 31, 1955

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

AND

Superintendent of Schools

OF THE



NEW CENTRAL OFFICE — Mary E. Wells High School

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE

For the Year Ending December 31, 1955

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Southbridge, MA 01550**

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SOUTHBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

DECEMBER 31, 1955

THE SOUTHBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

1955 - 1956

Chairman, Lorenzo Beaupre, 131 Central St.	1957
Vice Chairman, Eugene LeBlanc, 107 Pine St.	1956
Mrs. Frederic Beck, 103 Eastford Rd.	1956
Paul A. Roy, 141 Everett St.	1957
Belmore St. Amant, 11 Edwards St.	1958
Dr. Ralph R. Racicot, 192 Chapin St.	1958

MEETINGS OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The regular meetings of the School Committee are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 8:00 P. M. in the office of the Superintendent of Schools, Mary E. Wells High School building.

There are no regular meetings in July and August.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Robert L. Fox

Residence: 46 Columbus Avenue Tel. 4-8400

Office: Mary E. Wells High School Tel. 4-3285

SECRETARIES

Margaret R. Connolly, 14 South St. Tel. 4-6513

Mary F. Welch, 12 Woodland St. Tel. 4-3925

The Superintendent's office is open from Monday through Friday, from: 8:30 A. M. to 5:00 P. M.

SCHOOL PHYSICIANS

Dr. William Langevin, 24 Everett St. Tel. 4-7358

Dr. Adah B. Eccleston, 62 Elm St. Tel. 4-8141

SCHOOL NURSE

Mrs. Lottie A. LeBlanc, 54 Westwood Parkway Tel. 4-3359

SCHOOL CALENDAR — 1956

Winter term, seven weeks	January 3 - February 17
Spring term, seven weeks	February 27 - April 13
Summer term, nine weeks	April 23 - June 22
Fall term, sixteen weeks	September 5 - December 21

NO-SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT

The official No-School Announcement for all schools will be given over Stations WESO and WTAG at 7:00 A. M. and 7:45 A. M. There will also be two sets of eight blasts of the fire siren at 6:45 A. M. When it is necessary to make such a decision in the morning, schools will be closed for the entire day.

ENROLLMENT OCTOBER 1, 1955

Grade	5 - 7		7 - 14		14 - 16		16 - Up		Total	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
1	66	66	29	21					95	87
2	22	26	95	65					117	91
3			108	96					108	96
4			94	107					94	107
5			68	77					68	77
6			73	65	1				74	65
7			82	82	7	2			89	84
8			58	73	22	10			80	83
9			9	21	41	51	4	1	54	73
10					27	46	12	7	39	53
11					8	18	31	43	39	61
12					4	1	32	40	36	41
Ungraded			6	2	5	2			11	4
Trade					48		101		149	
Total	88	92	622	609	163	130	180	91	1053	922

Total Southbridge Public Schools	1975
Total Saint Mary's School	268
Total Notre Dame School	827
Total Ste. Jeanne D'Arc School	247
Grand Total (all pupils attending school in Southbridge)	3317

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	Appropriations	Expenditures	Reimbursements	Balance on hand Dec. 31, 1955
Salaries	\$459,940.00	\$453,551.86		\$ 6,388.14
Other Expenses (Including Transportation, Tuition, Medical Expenses, Textbooks, Supplies, Operation and Maintenance of Plant, Equipment, Capital Outlay, etc.)				
Contingency	116,737.00	116,703.12		33.88
Playgrounds	5,000.00	4,909.82		90.18
Driver Education	4,000.00	3,985.34		14.66
Federal Lunch Program (Cafeteria)	1,000.00	1,000.00		
Smith Hughes	3,000.00	3,000.00		
Eastford Rd. and West St. Heating pump repairs	1,168.00	1,168.00		
Enlarging the Metalsmith Shop at Cole Trade High School	900.00	899.95		.05
State Aid for Schools (Chap. 70 as Amended 1948 Chap. 643)	6,000.00	6,000.00		
Vocational School, State Grant			102,108.07	
Smith-Hughes U. S. Gov. Fund			35,148.03	
High School Tuition			1,168.00	
Elementary School Tuition			1,422.00	
Vocational School Tuition			631.91	
Cole Trade High Evening School Tuition			7,642.21	
Cole Trade High School—Goods Sold			103.30	
Transportation (Charlton)			3.00	
Transportation Vocational Pupils			20.20	
TOTALS	\$597,745.00	\$591,218.09	\$148,482.40	\$ 6,526.91

IN BRIEF:

Total Expenditures	\$591,218.09
Total Receipts to Town Treasurer	148,482.40

Net Cost to Town \$442,735.69

A detailed financial statement will be found in the Town Accountant's report.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
FOR 1955

To the School Committee and Citizens
of Southbridge, Massachusetts:

I herewith submit my second annual report as Superintendent of Schools for the year ending December 31, 1955.

Introduction

The past year has been marked by a quickening of interest in education and its problems throughout the nation. Two decades of increasing attention, of expanding costs, and of accumulating problems finally culminated in the White House Conference, which was requested by the President for the purpose of bringing into clearer focus the difficulties which beset our system of learning. There was general agreement that there is a shortage of teachers; that the building of new schools is not keeping pace with the growing enrollment, and that a new source for financial support of public education must be found. These were among the more important conclusions resulting from the conference.

The work of this conference, and that of many others of lesser stature, cannot be effective unless there is public acceptance that the findings are responsible reports of men and women of integrity. If, after all the discussion is over, the skepticism which has characterized the general attitude towards claims of educators remains, little will have been accomplished. We shall watch enrollments increase without enough teacher replacements even for the present force. We shall witness the tendency to hold double sessions grow because there will not be room for single sessions. We shall be faced with greater burdens upon the present tax structure because no strong effort will have been made to find other revenues for the increasing cost of education.

We are, of course, more concerned with the effects these problems have upon the affairs of our own community. Two elementary positions were vacated at the beginning of last summer, and replacements were not found until the closing days of August. People were appointed but found more lucrative positions elsewhere. In one case, there were four appointments. The first appointee accepted and resigned a few days later. The second accepted and resigned the next day. The third did not accept because he did not consider the salary adequate. The position was finally filled, but the question of salary played an important role in this and all other cases where replacements had to be made. This is especially true when it is necessary to seek qualified trade school teachers. There is a shortage of teachers, and towns with salary scales below the average must expect difficulty in interesting people of quality and ability.

In regard to the shortage of school rooms in Southbridge, it need only be said that almost every person who took the

time to investigate, and there were many during the past year, agreed that additions or new buildings are necessary. There was considerable disagreement as to the best solution to the problem, but few felt that the present buildings would house properly all the students four years from now.

In recapitulation, the lack of enough qualified teachers is beginning to affect Southbridge. The need for more space, which the opening of Tantasqua and the abolishing of the kindergarten helped to alleviate in recent years, will become more acute in the near future. The condition of the present buildings and equipment, the increasing need for more space, the impending additions to the teaching force to absorb increasing enrollments, the absolute necessity to keep abreast of salary increases in other similar communities will all add to the cost of local education in the next decade.

Buildings and Equipment

During the past year, eight rooms in the high school, the auditorium at Pleasant Street, and the stage at Charlton Street were redecorated. The outsides of the windows at Charlton Street and Eastford Road were glazed and painted. A start was made toward the goal of weatherproofing West Street School and Eastford Road School. It has been a common ex-

42 PUPILS — 4th GRADE — West Street School





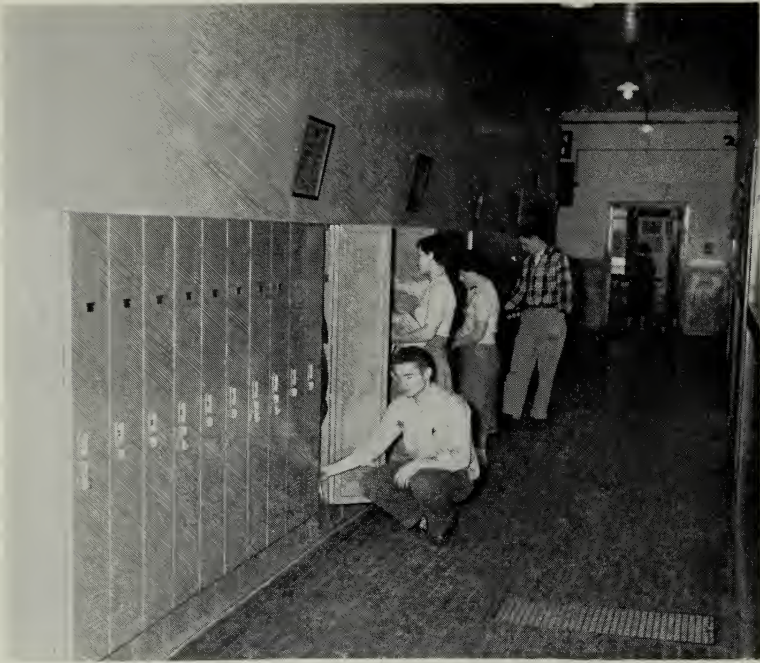
FIRST GRADE — Eastford Road School

perience to find water on the floors in both these buildings after severe rain storms. The boys at Mary E. Wells High School now have the modern rest-room facilities. The spacious new central office for the School Department will be found in the basement of the high school. The addition to the metal shop at Cole Trade High School was completed last Spring.

Four rooms at Mary E. Wells High School, one at Cole Trade High School, one each at Marcy Street School, Charlton Street School, and Eastford Road School have been completely refurnished. The Seniors at the high school have new lockers on the first floor in the corridors near their home rooms.

It is hoped that this project may be brought to completion as soon as possible so that every pupil in the school may have an individual locker thereby allowing use of the basement cloak rooms for storage of materials and supplies.

Four new typewriters and one new electric typewriter have been purchased. The cafeteria has a new stove, a new water heater, and an adequate storage room which was badly needed. There is a new curtain on the stage at Eastford Road School, and the public address system at that school has been completely rebuilt.



NEW LOCKERS — Mary E. Wells High School

HARD AT WORK — PRACTICAL ARTS
Mary E. Wells High School





RENOVATED KITCHEN — High School

"HEAR THIS!" — Eastford Road School



Practical Arts

A few years ago, a law was passed by the legislature making it mandatory upon a town in which five or more pupils cannot avail themselves of the advantages accruing from regular classes to institute such instruction as may best suit their needs. In conformance with this decree, we have had two such classes in the high school building since last September. Under excellent teaching, and with fine cooperation from all concerned, these classes have been making acceptable progress. Fifty percent of the total cost of this curriculum is reimbursable by the state.



NEW FACILITY FOR BOYS — Mary E. Wells High School

Curriculum Guide

A new curriculum guide for all the public schools of Southbridge will be available next September. This has been a two-year project and has entailed a large amount of work on the

part of all members of the instructional force. The evaluation which is a necessary part of this study, since a thorough investigation of present curriculum must be made, is a worthwhile phase of the work.

Policies

Since an annual report provides the best medium for reaching a large number of citizens, a review of some of the administrative policies might be a source of clarification.

The established ruling of the Southbridge School Committee in regard to transportation is as follows: A child in any of the first four grades in public or parochial school who lives a mile or more from the school he attends will be transported to and from school, once a day each way. The deciding distance for a student in grades above the fourth is a mile and one half. In many towns, the mile and one half distance applies to all students. Any regular exception to this rule would amount to special privilege and cannot be condoned. It is sometimes brought to our attention that a certain bus is not filled to capacity. Using the capacity of the bus as a determining factor, one bus route might be carrying pupils who live a quarter of a mile nearer school than the limit. If this were done on one route, the parents on other routes would demand the same consideration, and, on routes carrying full loads now, it would be necessary to put on other vehicles. This could be a never-ending procedure. One exception, except for reasons of disability, and there would be no rule.

On stormy mornings, the traffic manager of the transportation company calls the Superintendent at 6:30 A. M. if, in his estimation, travel is too dangerous for navigation. If there is danger in travel, school is called off for the day because large numbers of our pupils come by bus, and many others walk distances which are prohibitive during bad storms. This policy has been instituted as a safety measure and its explanation may be enlightening. School may be called off for the day at 7:00 A. M. and it is possible that two hours later the sun may be shining. The Superintendent makes no pretense that he is a weather prophet, but the decision has to be made in a few minutes and must be final after the proper agencies have been alerted.

REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL MARY E. WELLS HIGH SCHOOL SOUTHBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

The enrollment for the year 1955-1956, as of October, is divided as follows: Seniors—77, Juniors—100, Sophomores—92, Freshmen—127, Eighth Graders—163, making a total of 559 students.

CLASS OF 1955

Alan Roger Anderson	† Louise Ann Iozzo
* Marilyn Sarah Anderson	Marie Louise Jarry
Edwina Augusto	* Ann Judith Knowles
* Shirley Ann Belanger	Barbara Dorothea Kowaleski
* Patricia Ann Benjamin	† Emily Sylvia Laakso
† Carol Ann Benson	† Mary Elizabeth Lamarine
* Judith Ann Berry	* Beatrice Theresa Laroche
Gerald Bertrand, Jr.	Arline Mary Latour
* Elizabeth Frances Broskey	* Richard Roland LaVallee
† Carol Elizabeth Brown	Carolyn Lenora Leigh
* Peter Bruce Brown	* Robert Theodore L'Heureux
* Ann Louise Butler	* Donald Robert Lippe
James Eugene Campbell	Roger William Lundstrom
* Walter Chace	Adelina Nancy Lynch
Jane Louise Chase	Laurence Gilbert Martel
* Welsey Kraft Cole, Jr.	† Lorraine Doris Giacobbi
Constance Dolores Comeau	Margaret Ruth Giroux
* Evelyn Marie Confalone	William Robert Mason
† Donald Alderic Croke	† Diane Isabel McKinstry
* Antoinette Marguerite Del Greco	Barbara Ann Michaelies
Ramona Benita DiBona-ventura	† Hazel Hope O'Claire
* John Leonard DiFederico	Daniel Edward Orlowski
* George Raymond Gaudette	Marilyn Anne O'Shaughnessy
Elaine Corinne Gauthier	Nancy Frances Perron
Noreen Elizabeth Gauthier	* Dorothy Josephine Piasta
Constance George	* Robert Alfred Poirier
Celine Therese Cantara	† Margaret Elaine Polakowski
Ralph Richard Caron	Robert John Rischitelli
William Roycroft Golden	* Dolly Ruth Rutcho
* Harold Kenneth Grant	Mary Allacoque Ryan
† Estelle Therese Gravel	William Herbert Ryan
Edward Joseph Grenke	* Beverly Anne Saint Martin
John Francis Halley	Carol Marie St. Martin
† Kathryn Eugenia Hart	Theresa Ann St. Martin
Donald Richard Hastings	Paul Joseph Sfredo
* Edward William Hoginski	Brian Wynne Simpson
William Edward Holden	* Ann Marie Sugda
† Shirley May Holmes	* Sandra Ann Szugda
† Wilfrid Joseph Houde	* Dorothy Theodora Thanas
† Carroll Angela Hughes	Christo Vasil Topi
	Ruth Lillian Walker
	Donald Joseph Welch
	† Jeanne Demetria Xanthakos

SPECIAL STUDENT

Thomas Wilbur McKay

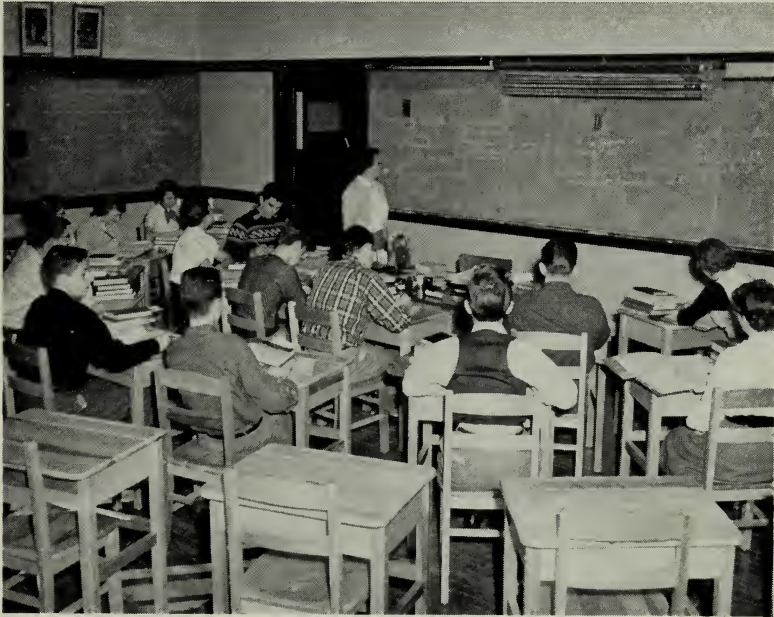
* General Average of 80% or above for four years

† Members of the National Honor Society

PROGRAM OF STUDIES

Diplomas are granted upon completion of four different courses; namely: Academic, Commercial, Civic-Social, and Homemaking.

Eighty-four pupils were graduated on June 10, 1955 and their names are included in this report for the information of interested citizens.



NEW FURNITURE — High School

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SCHOOL PLANT

A considerable number of improvements and changes has been made in the school plant. These are listed below:

1. A complete remodeling job of the boys' lavatories was done in such a way that all health requirements are met.
2. Lockers for all seniors have been installed.
3. Four rooms have been furnished with new desks.
4. The painting of the interior of the school was continued, and now many of the rooms on the second floor are completed.
5. A modern teachers' room for men has been installed on the basement floor. The room is equipped with modern facilities.
6. A new gas range has been placed in the cafeteria, and

the rear wall of the cafeteria has been remodeled to afford better ventilation.

7. The teachers' dining room has been redecorated.

8. An office for the Vice-Principal of the School has been set up on the first floor.

9. The Principal's office has new linoleum covered floors.

10. A suite of offices for the Superintendent of Schools and his staff has been installed.

1955 FLOOD SERVICE

The high school building was opened during the flood emergency to offer shelter and food to those people needing these services. The assembly hall, during the early stages of the flood, was a distribution center for clothes. Many teachers, as well as the custodians, volunteered their services.

HOME MAKING

Home Making is a required subject for all girls enrolled in the ninth grade of the high school. Each girl takes two double periods and one single period of this course each week.

The program is not merely a cooking and sewing course, but a training in Home Making designed to teach the fundamentals which contribute to a happy home life and to the many jobs with which a home maker should be familiar.

The work of the department has been made more efficient by the installation of two new sewing tables. These tables are the latest models and each includes two modern sewing machines.

JUNIOR RED CROSS

The Junior Red Cross is a service organization. This group, under the able direction of Miss Luise Corbin, gives cheer and aid to the destitute, the ill, and the unfortunate.

The work of the group with the veterans supplements the tremendous task carried on by local, state, and national patriotic groups.

However, the work of the Junior Red Cross is not confined to local problems. Cognizant of the needs of many of our overseas allies, they have filled chests full of supplies that will take care of a school of forty-eight pupils for a period of one year. Each chest costs one hundred dollars to fill. The Mary E. Wells Chapter of the Junior Red Cross has sent chests to Greece and Korea.

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

The work of the Guidance Department will be covered in the report of the Guidance Director, Mr. Sven Rosengren.

THE COMMERCIAL COURSE

The commercial program includes: typewriting, bookkeeping, comptometry, filing, office practice and all general business courses. The cooperative program with industry is still in operation. The course takes place in the last semester of the senior year and permits pupils to alternate work weeks with instruction weeks. The girls, four units of them, take places in reliable business institutions and have found this program most beneficial.

The equipment of the Commercial Department is kept at maximum efficiency. This year four more electric typewriters were added to the department.

THE COLLEGE PREPARATORY COURSE

The College Preparatory course prepares students for all leading universities and colleges in the country. Many of the pupils receive large scholarships, a tribute to their own industry and a tribute to the excellent instruction of their teachers. Students from this course have entered such leading institutions as Cornell, Connecticut College for Women, Brown University, the College of the Holy Cross, Tufts, Dartmouth, University of Massachusetts, Boston University, University of Michigan, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Clark University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University, Smith College, Mount Holyoke, Wellesley College, Simmons College, Columbia University, University of Connecticut, University of New Hampshire, Williams College, Colorado College, Ohio State University, The College of New Rochelle, California Institute of Technology, Georgia Institute of Technology, Pennsylvania State College, Northeastern University, plus most of the leading business colleges and nursing schools.

THE EIGHTH GRADES

The eighth grades of the school system are still housed in the high school building. This year it has been necessary, because of increased enrollment, to have five eighth grade home rooms. The pupils receive the program opportunities of the high school, and they are eligible for all high school activities, including sports.

STUDENT COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The Student Council of the Mary E. Wells High School plays an important part between students and administration. This organization is under the direction of Miss Constance Coderre. The values of the organization are manifold.

1. Pupils participate in or manage extra-curricular affairs.
2. Responsibility, initiative, and leadership are developed.
3. Proper student-faculty relations are promoted.
4. Training in worthy citizenship is furnished.
5. The general welfare of the school is promoted.
6. The internal administration of the school is aided.

The Fred E. Corbin Chapter of the National Honor Society, named in honor of the late Mr. Fred E. Corbin, inducted twenty-two members during the past year. The most recent induction was honored by the Principal of Woodstock Academy, Mr. Gregory C. Coffin, who spoke at the ceremonies.

The following young people have been inducted into the society during the past year:

February 1955:

SENIORS

Carol Brown	Kathryn Hart
Lorraine Giacobbi	Louise Iozzo
Diane McKinstry	

JUNIORS

William Bellos	Janet Bumpus
----------------	--------------

November 1955:

SENIORS

Kleopatra George	Maureen Israel
Sandra Veshia	

JUNIORS

Barbara Bialy	Pauline Gendreau
Kenneth Blanchard	Ann Guardiani
Raymond Boisvert	William Johnson
Roger Crevier	Carol McKinstry
Judith Cutler	Ada Tieri
Barbara Duclos	Helen Xanthakos

ASSEMBLIES

Assemblies are held every other week. These assemblies are of immense value to any student body inasmuch as they are not only educational but explore the various phases of school life. Furthermore, they widen and deepen the interests of the pupils and serve as a means of developing public opinion and appreciation. The types of assemblies fall into many categories, such as are listed below:

1. Education
2. Music

3. Rallies
4. Drama
5. Club Programs
6. Movies
7. Entertainment
8. Honor Society Installation
9. Science
10. Commerce and Business
11. Observance of Special Days
12. Guidance

The assemblies are held in the auditorium of the high school.



HONOR ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDATIONS

There are several recommendations that I would like to make at this time:

1. That the Town look to the future and purchase land for the erection of a six-year high school. Suitable sites for such a school are being sold and developed for other purposes.
2. That the lavatory facilities for girls be remodeled and modern equipment be installed.
3. That a complete renovation of the Science Laboratory be made. New equipment is needed to keep abreast with the rapid progress of science.
4. That a library be started and a teacher-librarian be appointed.
5. That more lockers be installed until enough are furnished to take care of all pupils' personal belongings, coats, rubbers, etc.

6. That the Industrial Arts program be expanded in order that those pupils who are not interested in a Trade Education may have the benefit from allied courses.

7. That a biology laboratory be installed so that pupils may conduct experiments to increase their interest in the subject.

8. That a survey be made to determine the proper methods of lighting all rooms in the school.

I wish to express my appreciation to the townspeople for their continued efforts in behalf of the Mary E. Wells High School, and I extend my thanks to the School Department for support.



WELCOME FRESHMEN

COLE TRADE HIGH SCHOOL

RAYMOND L. W. BENOIT, *Director*

"An electronic tape runs a boring machine," reports a Minneapolis concern. Ford Motor Company said, "With automation a major training program will have to be set up." The President of General Motors said, "Automation will mean an upgrading of labor." Will automation affect the labor supply at Southbridge? This is problematical but we do know this. The Worcester Trade School accepted some work which will be used on an atom reactor, and before they were able to perform this work, it was necessary for the Shop and Related Teachers to receive special training. All of these facts mean

that something must be done about giving our boys a very thorough background in the sciences. In order to provide this training, we will require laboratory facilities.

It appears, at the time of writing this report, that this will be the second consecutive year when we will be unable to absorb those boys who are on the waiting list. This same condition exists in the Evening School.

The addition made to the Metalsmith Department this year has solved a problem which enables us to give the Metalsmith students the proper training.

The hour for Glee Club rehearsal was changed this year to accommodate the program of the Supervisor of Music. We hope that by next year the Supervisor's program will permit the Glee Club to meet the last period.

We are continuing the practice of providing clean towels and soap for the Gym classes.



ADDITION TO METAL SHOP

CLASS OF 1955

CABINET

James J. Helliwell
Donald P. L'Ecuyer

George E. Parent
Robert Wadsworth

DRAFTING

Richard A. Curboy

MACHINE

Ronald L. Allard	Donald G. Hufault
John C. Berry	Leslie B. Martel
Harold A. Chapman	Robert L. Maynard
Gregory E. Costa	George L. Saulnier
Raymond J. DeRouin	Donald R. Sheeran
Richard C. Foster	Alfred T. Stanger

METALSMITH

Roland L. Beaupre	Lucien J. Jolin
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CLASS OFFICERS

President	Donald L'Ecuyer
Vice President	Alfred Stanger
Secretary	James Helliwell
Treasurer	Richard Foster

AWARDS

American Legion Post No. 31 Award (Good Citizenship)	Richard Foster
Director's "C"	Robert Wadsworth
English	James Helliwell
History	James Helliwell
Mathematics	Richard Curboy
Science	Harold Chapman
Readers Digest Award	James Helliwell

EVENING SCHOOL DIVISION

Cabinet—Mr. Frank P. Skinyon	31
Drafting—Mr. John L. Benson	31
Machine—Mr. William B. Paul	32
Soldering-Welding—Mr. George H. Braman	25
Furniture Refinishing—	
Mrs. Margaret B. Baybutt	13
Mr. Stanley A. Naumnik	12
Mr. Antonio Orsini	25
Total	169

In conclusion, I thank the Townspeople, the School Committee, the Advisory Board, the Superintendent of Schools, the Faculty, the Office Staffs, and our Custodian for their valuable aid in helping to make Vocational Education a success in the Town of Southbridge.

HEALTH REPORT

MRS. LOTTIE A. LEBLANC, R.N., *School Nurse*

Some of the more essential work being done in this department can be better understood from the following statistics:



SAFETY FIRST
Charlton Street School

CHRISTMAS ANGELS
Eastford Road School



AN ADVENTURE IN ART
Mechanic Street School

SCHOOL BUILDERS
Marcy Street School



CONCENTRATION
Pleasant Street School

RECREATION AT NOON
West Street School





Cole Trade High School
COMBINATION CLASS AND STUDY HALL

FURNITURE REFINISHING — Cole Trade High School



Physical examinations	581
Visits to schools	305
Vision tests	1508
Hearing tests	2183
Home visits	160
Conferences on health problems	861
Dental Care	290
Innoculations	1229
Pre-School Clinic Registration	315
Donations for milk by Lions' Club	\$800.00
Census of the blind completed	
Census of the physically handicapped completed	
Special class for the mentally retarded given much attention.	

Six home teachers were provided for children unable to go to school. Clear Type Books were obtained from the Massachusetts Division of the Blind for three pupils.

In conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed in any way to the success of the 1955 Health Program.

BAND REPORT

MR. PAUL J. SWEET, *Director*

In reporting on the activities of the instrumental music department for the past year, one phase of the program seems to stand out prominently in regard to the continuing technical advancement of the students.

In the elementary grades, the instructor is able to take



NEW BAND INSTRUMENTS

small groups weekly. In this way, each new problem can be explained in a leisurely manner and a normal progress is noted. Unfortunately, this does not apply when these same students reach their freshman year. No plans, as yet, have been instituted whereby high school students can have this continuing small group instruction and thus continue their musical growth which, in turn, would be reflected in the more advanced grade of music they could perform. It would seem, therefore, that future schedule planning should consider this factor seriously.

When a new high school is built in Southbridge, plans should include a music suite which would include a properly planned rehearsal room for the band, several small rooms to be used for individual and small ensemble practice, storage space for uniforms, and instruments, and a director's office. This suite should be handy to the auditorium stage and also close to the athletic field or a large parking space, said space to be used for outside drilling. The gymnasium should be made available to the band for drilling in case of inclement weather, or for night drill practice.

The next phase of the instrumental program should deal with the problem of equipping the band with the types of instruments that are required to change it from a military marching band for outside work to a symphonic concert band so that it could properly perform concert music.

To this end, a beginning was made this year by the purchase of a set of tympani, a bass clarinet, and an oboe.

There is further need for a set of chimes, concert drums, an additional bass clarinet, an oboe, alto clarinet, two Sousaphones, three French horns, and fifteen new uniforms.

To bring the band up to a proper concert level, an investment of \$5,000 would be required.

A survey has been conducted of the schools of Massachusetts, the results of which show most of them do have the above symphonic instruments, and it is interesting to note that some of these towns, so equipped, are smaller than Southbridge.

In closing, may I point out the net worth of the band stands at a little more than \$5,000 as of this date.

REPORT ON CHORAL MUSIC

ELLWOOD S. JENNESS, *Director*

The year 1955 saw a continuing growth in the vocal music department of the Southbridge Public Schools. This growth is most easily discernible in the eighth grade and high school groups where the number of students electing chorus has increased from about 150 to nearly 250.

A very successful exchange concert, in cooperation with the high school band, was held with Athol High School in March. The operetta "H. M. S. Pinafore" was presented in

May. The High School Choir, with Donald Croke of the graduating class as baritone soloist, sang the cantata "Ballad for Americans" at the graduation, while the Girls' Glee Club furnished the music for the Baccalaureate Exercises. The Eighth Grade Glee Club, fresh from achieving an outstanding rating at the Central Massachusetts Festival, sang at the elementary school graduation.

In this present school year, the bands and choruses co-



HARMONY — Mechanic Street School

SECTION — MIXED GLEE CLUB



operated to present their first public Christmas program which was very well attended and, artistically, most successful.

Perhaps special mention is merited by the Boys' Glee Club since groups of this type are rather rare at the high school level. The more than fifty Wellsmen were roundly hailed by Worcester County music educators at the Teachers' Convention in November. Numerous other appearances by this group include concerts at Tantasqua High School and at Parents' night at Mary E. Wells.

It is admitted that much room for improvement exists at the elementary school level. Specific needs in this program mentioned in last year's report are still in evidence and the conviction is again advanced that an addition to the teaching staff is necessary in order that the desired ends be achieved.

GUIDANCE AND PLACEMENT

SVEN O. ROSENGREN, *Director*

Testing Program

The testing program in the Southbridge Public Schools consists of a planned and continuing activity, including the administration and scoring of tests of scholastic aptitude or intelligence, vocational aptitude, interest and achievement. During the past year, group intelligence tests were administered to grades 1, 4, 7, 9, and 11. Also, in accordance with state law, an intelligence survey was conducted throughout the school system. Where the need was indicated, the Stanford Binet Test was individually administered as described in the law.

Vocational aptitude batteries were administered at grade 8 and grade 11 levels. The battery administered to the grade 8 group included mechanical, clerical, and scholastic aptitude tests, reading achievement tests, arithmetic achievement tests, and tests in language arts. Individual profiles were drawn using the data derived from these tests. Eleventh grade pupils responded to the Boston University Aptitude Test Battery annually administered at that level in the Mary E. Wells and Cole Trade High Schools. Again, individual psychometric profiles were constructed using test battery data.

During the first week of February, the California Achievement Test Battery was administered in all of the elementary school classrooms by the classroom teachers. Subsequent to this testing, a summary of survey data indicated that the average deviation from the national norm for all grades was $+ .7$ of one school year.

Counselling

As in the past, the nature of counselling was dependent upon the individual variation in types of problems considered. All eighth grade pupils completed interest questionnaires which were used to supplement aptitude profiles previously described.

Parents were sent invitations to visit the guidance office and to discuss selection of high school programs. Many parents accepted these invitations and participated in a cooperative counselling process.

Data derived from cumulative records, interest and preference inventories, psychometric batteries, and counselling records were used as aids in counselling high school students.

The graduating class of 1955 numbered eighty-two pupils, 42.7% of whom continued on to further education in four-year colleges, junior colleges, business schools and nursing schools.

Employment

As in recent years, part-time employment of pupils outside of school continued high. About seventy-five per cent of the seniors now at the Mary E. Wells High School were employed in some kind of part-time work. Their average income was \$16.80 per week. Forty-eight per cent of the Junior class was also employed in part-time work. However, the numbers of pupils employed in the Sophomore and Freshman classes were substantially smaller because of labor laws and age requirements.

Recommendations

1. It is recommended that a Dean of Girls be appointed in the Mary E. Wells High School to assist in the counselling program.
2. Diagnostic reading tests indicate that, as a group, the



KEY TO THE FUTURE

students in our public schools score well above the national average. However, there are a significant number of students in our schools who have reading problems. Therefore, it is recommended that a reading improvement program be initiated in our school system to help in meeting the needs of those who are slow readers.

The cooperation and assistance of all school personnel in the administering of the guidance program is acknowledged and appreciated. I wish at this time to express my sincere thanks for the many helpful contributions of time and effort that have been made in behalf of guidance services.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DR. LEWIS A. KYRIOS, *Director*

Our present Physical Education Program has been organized to include all the elementary school students, the special classes, and the entire student body of Cole Trade High School. Grades six and seven, both boys and girls, participate in regular gym classes, while all the students in grades 1 to 5 inclusive, participate in programs prepared by the Director, and supervised by classroom teachers during the recess period.

Calisthenics, games, relays, and recreational sports are emphasized in the regular gym classes. This program is flexible in order to provide a wide range of activities for the many interests and needs of the students. Each student averages one hour of physical education per week.

The program offered to the first five grades in the elementary schools has been designed to provide the students with opportunities to learn basic skills; to develop good health and safety habits; to encourage leadership, good sportsmanship, and to express themselves physically as well as mentally. This particular program has been divided into the following three levels: a program for Grades I and II, a program for Grades III and IV, and a program for Grade V. Thirty minutes a day are given to the program. Mimetics, singing games and group games are planned for the students in Grades I and II. Grades III and IV offer rhythmic activities, group games, relays and athletic games. Team games and athletic games are emphasized in Grade V.

AFTER SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAM

The after-school athletic program has been organized to give the elementary students an opportunity to participate in competitive sports with proper supervision. Touch football, basketball, and baseball are offered to the boys. The girls may participate in basketball and softball. Coaches have been appointed to insure proper supervision. Schedules are carefully prepared to protect the health and safety of the students. Proper equipment and facilities have been secured.

This program has been very popular with the students and the competition has been keen and better balanced in the past year. Accent has been placed on participation on the variety as well as on the intra-mural levels.

REPORT OF ADULT CIVIC EDUCATION

MISS CONSTANCE M. L'ECUYER, *Director*

At this time, I should like to make clear some of the provisions of the latest laws in regard to Immigration and Naturalization of Aliens. With reference to Veterans, any alien who has been, for ninety days, in the service of this country, or who is a Veteran of American Wars from any country is eligible for citizenship.

A woman who has lived here and has been married to a citizen for three years may file for citizenship.

Persons of all races are able to become citizens and are admitted on the preference list on the basis of the relationship to an American citizen. Naturally, parents, then husbands, wives, or children are given first consideration.

There is one thing a Naturalized Citizen must ever keep in mind. These last laws make it easy to take away the citizenship of Naturalized Citizens and to deport them. For example, deportation may be effected for theft over five dollars.

Denaturalization threatens every Naturalized Citizen for failing to disclose any fact which he might have considered immaterial at the time he was naturalized. As for traveling, if he remains abroad for five years, he automatically loses his citizenship.

Last, but most important, every Alien faces deportation if he fails to register each January, thus reporting his address.

The most important objective of the Adult Civic Education Division of the Southbridge School Department is to reach adult non-citizens and foreign born residents, and to develop an interest in their preparation for Citizenship by helping them in every way possible to attain this goal. In this matter, the School Department has wholeheartedly cooperated with the Massachusetts Department of Education.

At this time, as Director, I wish to thank other Town Departments for their cooperation and help in giving needed information, and the Police Department for taking finger prints which must accompany each application filed.

We are pleased to note that, recently, naturalized citizens who not long ago attended Citizenship and English classes themselves, have encouraged close relatives to cross the Ocean. These new arrivals are now in English classes. This is a tribute to a Town that makes newcomers feel welcome and provides means to help them.

Private lessons and special help are given whenever there is need.



AN ATTENTIVE CLASS

PLAYGROUND REPORT

DR. LEWIS A. KYRIOS, *Director*

The playground season was scheduled to run from July 11th through August 19th, a period of six weeks. However, because of the polio threat epidemic, activities for the last week were cancelled. The activities were conducted at the following areas: Charlton Street, Eastford Road, West Street, and Pleasant Street.

PERSONNEL

Director — Lewis A. Kyrios

Supervisor of Arts and Crafts—Mrs. Kathryn Beauregard
Charlton Street Playground

Supervisors	Mr. Eugene Remian
	Miss Madelene Proulx
Assistants	Miss Judith Brockway
	Miss Jeanne Xanthakos

Eastford Road Playground

Supervisor	Mr. Vincent Puracchio
Assistants	Miss Mary Butler, Miss Joan Darley

West Street Playground

Supervisor	Mr. Paul Duhart
Assistants	Miss Antoinette Del Greco
	Miss Margaret Polakowski

Pleasant Street Playground

Supervisor Mrs. Dorothy Simpson
Assistants Miss Ann Knowles, Miss Marilyn
O'Shaughnessy, Mr. John Di Frederico

ENROLLMENT AND ATTENDANCE

Total Enrollment	1100
Average Daily Attendance	435
Average Percentage of Attendance	42%
Largest Daily Attendance	640

MEETINGS

There were six meetings of the Supervisors held during the season, the purpose of which was to plan the activities of the week and to consider any difficulties that may have arisen during the previous week. These meetings were a source of help to all.

ACTIVITIES

The Playground program was divided in the following manner:

First Week	Organization Week
Second Week	Sports Program
Third Week	Intra-Playground Competition
Fourth Week	Amateur Shows
Fifth Week	Sports Playoffs
Sixth Week	Arts and Crafts Exhibit

ARTS AND CRAFTS

Under the capable supervision of Mrs. Kathryn Beauregard, the Arts and Crafts program was outstanding. Over 3500 pieces were made and many new articles were introduced. The polio threat forced the cancellation of the exhibit of the Arts and Crafts Program.

I wish to extend my appreciation to all those who worked so enthusiastically and loyally to make the playground a success.

REPORT OF THE SUPERVISOR OF UNIVERSITY EXTENSION AND EVENING VOCATIONAL COURSES

DR. JAMES M. ROBERTSON, *Director*

Classes in evening vocational subjects were offered again this year and proved to be very well attended. The following vocational classes were started in September:

Elementary Sewing	Two classes
Advanced Dressmaking	Two classes
Tailoring	One class
Cooking	One class

University Extension classes were offered in the commercial and academic fields.

Elementary Typewriting	One class
Elementary Surveying	One class

These classes were conducted under the supervision of the State Department of Education and were instructed by accredited teachers.

Other classes in the vocational, commercial, and academic fields will be offered when the demand for them is sufficient to form such classes.

CAFETERIA REPORT

MRS. EDITH M. FREEMAN, *Supervisor*

The Cafeteria feeds an average of from 400 to 425 lunches each day, which represents an increase of from 100 to 125 over last year.

A new gas range and store room have been added, and a partition has been removed. This latter improvement provides better ventilation. However, there is still need of a mixer.

The Cafeteria, the Teachers' Dining Room, and the kitchen have been redecorated.

The Elementary Milk Program continues on the same high level as last year.

The Southbridge Rotary Club, Lions Club, and Southbridge Evening Woman's Club, together with the West St. P.T.A. provide milk for those who cannot afford it.

I wish to thank these organizations for their generosity in providing this additional nutrition which is so essential to children.

AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS REPORT

MR. EDWARD DESROCHES, *Director*

USES

The extended use of audio-visual materials is constantly being suggested and encouraged by the scientific evidence coming out of today's research in the field of education. The research shows very conclusively that children *learn more in less time and remember longer* when audio-visual materials are used to teach team.

Teachers of the Southbridge School System are very much cognizant of these findings as evidenced by their enthusiastic participation in the Audio-Visual Aids Program during 1955. Their use of the educational film, filmstrip, lantern slide, and tape recording, was frequent and effective throughout the year.

NEW EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

In accordance with the long range policy of the Department, new equipment and materials were added to the Department. A new DeVry sound motion picture projector was purchased for the High School; while approximately fifty film-



A LESSON IN PICTURES

MATERIAL FOR INSTRUCTORS



strips were added to the present filmstrip library which serves the needs of the entire school system. Our library now contains over three hundred filmstrips which are closely correlated with the major areas of the curriculum.

AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS RESOURCE RACKS

In order to facilitate the dissemination of audio-visual information, specially designed racks were built and placed in each elementary school. All information (books, bulletins, newsletters, catalogs, etc.) pertaining to audio-visual education is placed in these racks, thereby facilitating the teacher's task of locating desired audio-visual information. This procedure should result in better and more extensive use of audio-visual materials in the future.

STUDENT PROJECTIONISTS

This year, as in the past, students were trained and added to the Projectionist Squad in order to relieve teachers of mechanical details and give them more time for teaching when using projected aids. Teachers have voiced repeatedly their appreciation of this service.

RESEARCH

Research, initiated last year on the problem of "Building The Type of Audio-Visual Aids Program Which Should Be in Operation In the Southbridge Public Schools," was continued through the year and will be completed early in 1956. Many new ideas, methods, and procedures have already been incorporated in the administration of the present program as a direct result of the investigation.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Department considered it a privilege to assist various community organizations during 1955. Equipment and operators were provided for the following organizations during the year: Southbridge Women's Club, Rotary Club, Hamilton Rod & Gun Club, Girl Scouts, and the Jacob Edwards Public Library.

Since the success of any program is largely dependent upon its participants, I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to all administrators and teachers for their interest and assistance in the Audio-Visual Aids Program.

ART REPORT

All of our children have the potential ability to enrich their lives through the value of the arts. Teachers, who value

the creative ability of children, seek ways to nurture its growth. The integrated art program now in operation in the public schools of Southbridge is a flexible one, planned to help the child through the physical and human resources of our schools and his community.

In the primary grades, a child experiences, to the fullest extent, the satisfaction of expressing himself through the use of different mediums.

In the intermediate grades, work in design, drawings related to his experiences, and crafts give opportunities for creative expression to all.

In the upper grades, more difficult work is attempted, including instruction in block printing, stenciling, and the art of lettering with brush and pen; in addition, training is given in advanced color harmony, design, and participation in poster contests. On this level, many problems are related to his home and to the community.

Students in Mary E. Wells High School are offered an



SETTING UP ART DISPLAY — Pleasant Street School



EASTFORD ROAD MURAL

elective art course, which is of great value to students who wish to further their studies in art, or who are interested in drawing or painting as a leisure time hobby. Students are given thorough training in color theory, design, sketching, painting in water color, and oils for advanced students; also, layout, black and white drawings for the school paper, paper sculpture mobiles, stenciling, designing and printing for school programs, painting scenery for school plays, and making and planning decorations for school dances. The course provides stimulating and practical problems for the average, or the very gifted student.

SCHOOL PERSONNEL

The name, date of appointment, and degrees appear in that order.

Robert L. Fox — 1954	M.Ed.
Sven Rosengren — 1950	M.A.
Claire Birtz — 1937	
Lewis Kyrios — 1945	D.Ed.
Ellwood Jenness — 1948	B.S.
Paul Sweet — 1950	

MARY E. WELLS HIGH SCHOOL

James M. Robertson — 1937	D.Ed.
Pauline Aucoin — 1921	B.S.
Kathryn Beauregard — 1922	M.A.

Rose Brodeur — 1939	M.A.
Eva Casavant — 1933	M.A.
Laura Chapman — 1953	A.B.
Constance Coderre — 1929	B.S.
Corbin, Luise — 1915	
Edward Desroches — 1949	A.B.
Paul Duhart — 1949	M.Ed.
Thecla Fitzgerald — 1926	M.Ed.
Robert Hart — 1952	M.Ed.
Estelle Hefner — 1933	Ph.B.
Everett Holmes — 1945	M.Ed.
Persis Howe — 1930	B.S.
Barbara Kyrios — 1940	B.S.
Eino Laakso — 1945	M.A.
Gilbert Lamarre — 1954	B.A.
Harry McMahon — 1926	M.A.
William Nickerson — 1941	
Mitchell Skaza — 1955	D.D.S.
Elinor Small — 1945	M.Ed.
Flora Tait — 1939	M.A.
Frances Troy — 1927	B.S.
Lindzay Varnam — 1943	M.Ed.
Elsie Wanerka — 1945	B.S.
John Welch — 1948	M.Ed.

COLE TRADE HIGH SCHOOL

Raymond L. W. Benoit — 1949	M.Ed.
John Benson — 1942	B.S.
George Braman — 1938	
Walter Glondek — 1938	
William Paul — 1942	
Guy Raiti — 1955	
Eugene Remian — 1949	B.S.
Frank P. Skinyon — 1934	B.S.
Lawrence Swenson — 1932	
Edwin Waskiewicz — 1952	

CHARLTON STREET SCHOOL

R. Joseph Racine — 1944	M.A.
Dorothy Berthiaume — 1954	A.B.
Lorene Fierro — 1954	B.S.
Helen Golden — 1948	
Claire Kirk — 1949	B.S.
Gwen Kuszewski — 1954	
Dorothy Locke — 1954	
Ruth Mahan — 1948	B.S.
Bernard Pouliot — 1955	B.A.
Anthony Sapienza — 1954	B.S.
Marie Saunders — 1954	

EASTFORD ROAD SCHOOL

Raoul Lataille — 1940	M.Ed.
Theodore Finnerty — 1948	M.A.
Bertha Foley — 1912	
Irene Gough — 1912	
Thomas Mahoney — 1954	B.S.
Cathryn Maxwell — 1945	
Julia Morrill — 1914	
Vincent Puracchio — 1950	B.S.
Dorothy Simpson — 1954	B.S.
Marie Skaza — 1949	
Florida Tarquinio — 1942	B.S.
Lois Traub — 1955	B.A.
Ruth Huson — 1946	

MARCY STREET SCHOOL

Constance L'Ecuier — 1940	M.A.
Patricia Callahan — 1939	M.A.
Elizabeth Curtis — 1944	A.B.
Alice Dion — 1926	
Josette Dupuis — 1948	A.B.
Myrtle Jodrey — 1944	
Martha Koprowski — 1954	B.S.
Malcolm Nash — 1948	M.Ed.
Evangeline Towse — 1948	M.Ed.

MECHANIC STREET SCHOOL

Anita Sfreddo — 1953	Ms.B.
Ann Bousquet — 1955	B.S.
Tynne Straatveit — 1955	M.A.

PLEASANT STREET SCHOOL

Camella Dintini — 1940	B.S.
Corinne Beaudreau — 1924	
Ruth Sampson — 1930	
Mary Winston — 1951	

SPECIAL TEACHERS

William E. Rinehart — 1952	
Stanley Naumnik — 1954	B.S.
Clara Reed — 1941	

WEST STREET SCHOOL

Laurenda Boyer — 1927	
Yolande Augusto — 1951	B.S.
Dagmar Irwin — 1954	
Nancy Jodrey — 1954	B.A.

John Kowalski — 1955	B.A.
Madelene Proulx — 1954	B.S.
Eva Salviuolo — 1943	B.S.
Dorothy Sheriff — 1945	
Anne Skudlark — 1954	
Celestine Sweet — 1932	

CAFETERIA PERSONNEL

Edith Freeman — 1953	Manager
Gladys Alger — 1953	
Viola Galligan — 1953	
Irene Gates — 1954	
Isabel LaForce — 1953	

CHANGE OF TEACHERS

Left

March—*Mary Puracchio	Eastford Road
May—Francis Couture	Cole Trade High
June—Claude Lacouture	Mary E. Wells High
June—*Arthur Lane	Mary E. Wells High
June—Rosaire Pariseau	Cole Trade High
June—Lorraine Gagne	Charlton Street
June—Elizabeth Duhamel	Charlton Street
June—William Haith	West Street School
August—Joseph Angelini	Marcy Street
September—Ernest Hall	Cole Trade High
September—Ruth Cummings	Cafeteria
October—Louisa Steenburn	Special Class
December—Dr. Mitchell Skaza	Mary E. Wells High

Appointments

September—Dr. Mitchell Skaza	Mary E. Wells High
September—Guy Raiti	Cole Trade High
September—Bernard Pouliot	Charlton Street
September—Lois Traub	Eastford Road
September—Ann Bousquet	Mechanic Street
September—Tynne Straatveit	Mechanic Street
September—Joseph Kowaleski, Jr.	West Street
September—Edith Freeman	Cafeteria

CHANGE OF JANITORS

Appointments

January—Joseph Libera	Mary E. Wells High
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Left

January—Frederick Alger	Mary E. Wells High
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JANITORS

1954—Joseph Brouillard	Marcy Street
1946—John B. Craite	Cole Trade High

1942—Armand Gaumond	Mechanic Street
1952—Wilfred P. Gauthier	West Street
1952—Adelard Lavallee	Mary E. Wells High
1943—Theophile Leduc	Charlton Street
1955—Joseph Libera	Mary E. Wells High
1941—Joseph Moore	Eastford Road
1949—Eugene Tetreault	Pleasant Street
1953—George St. Martin	Mary E. Wells High

CONCLUSION

We have placed before you a record of activities, changes in personnel improvements in the system and other material which we hope has given you an understanding of our aims, our hopes and our problems. We are grateful to you, the taxpayers of the community for all that you have done, and we hope that we may have your support in our plans to improve and expand the educational program.

To the Southbridge School Committee with whom it has been a pleasure to work, to the hard-working staff, to all who have contributed in any way to the year's achievement, I close this report in an expression of appreciation.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT L. FOX

Superintendent of Schools

Jacob Edwards Library
236 Main Street
Southbridge, MA 01550

JACOB EDWARDS LIBRARY



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